

boats of any kind, but it was not long before he had its channels deepened and the stream rendered useful to himself and his neighbors—a service which he deemed worthy of being ranked among the greatest of his life. The management of the plantation was assumed by Jefferson, who throughout his life was what we should call, in these days, a scientific farmer. His "garden-book," a monument of detail and patience, shows that he was deeply interested in the processes of nature, and that he brought to bear the keenest observation and the most careful reflection upon numberless experiments in garden, orchard, and field. His avowed ambition was to make two blades of grass grow where one had grown before. Although much given to theory, he was sufficiently practical to make his farm pay. For many years it yielded him, an annual income of two thousand dollars, which, combined with an income of three thousand dollars made by the practice of the law, enabled him by the year 1774 to increase the number of his acres from nineteen hundred to five thousand and the number of his slaves from, thirty to fifty-four. It is but just to say, however, that no slaves were ever bought as an investment. We shall see that Jefferson, was quite incapable of engaging in such a traffic.

As a lawyer Jefferson was successful from the beginning. He was no orator; he was not even an agreeable public speaker. When elevated, his voice grew husky and indistinct. Yet in other respects he was admirably qualified for the bar. His talent for investigation enabled him to bring his cases into court thoroughly prepared, and a faculty for summarizing a case, however complex or vast, in a few short sentences, made it possible for him to dispense with the tricks of the fluent advocate. During the first year of his practice he had sixty cases before the General Court of Virginia. The second year brought him one hundred and fifteen cases. Among his clients were the Elands, Burwells, Carters, Harrisons, Randolphs, Lees, Nelsons, Pages. He continued in a lucrative practice until 1774, when the duties of public office practically ended his career as an attorney.

^tSee Services of Jefferson, page 381.